

REMARKS

Claim 1 to 9 are in the case.

With this amendment, Applicant has revised the claims in a manner which is believed to clearly and patentably define over the prior art.

In greater detail, Claim 1 calls for a method of treating pig manure using quarry fines which comprises the steps of separating the pig manure into a solid faction and liquid faction, mixing the liquid faction with the quarry fines for a period of time sufficient to reduce the phosphor content thereof, and separating the liquid faction from the quarry fines to provide a liquid suitable for use as a fertilizer.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the quarry fines and liquid faction are mixed for at least 30 minutes. Claim 5 has been changed to recite that the liquid faction is mixed with the quarry fines without any pre-treatment.

The advantage of the present invention lies in the fact that it utilizes quarry fines, which normally have a very low value, to reduce the phosphor content of liquid pig manure. The quarry fines, as stated, are frequently disposed of as they have little practical use. However, Applicant has found that these otherwise low value quarry fines are ideal for the treatment of liquid pig manure as they have an extremely high surface area and have the ability to "fix" the phosphor. One is then provided with a liquid which is generally suitable for use as a fertilizer.


The primary reference of Kruidhof, United States Patent 5,993,503 teaches a method for de-phosphorizing manure and in particular pig manure. However, this reference does not begin to teach that one can utilize quarry fines, which have a high surface area and contain several minerals suitable for the treatment of liquid waste

manure. Rather, Kruidhof teaches that the liquid faction must be conditioned prior to further treatment. If not conditioned, his method does not work.

The cited reference further teaches treatment of the liquid faction to provide a clean liquid which can be drained or evaporated without danger to the environment. Applicant, on the other hand, teaches a method for the treatment of the pig manure such that it can be utilized as a fertilizer. Thus, Applicant provides substantial advantages in that there is value added to the quarry fines and the final product is suitable for use as a fertilizer.

The secondary references cited by the Examiner, do not add anything to the deficiencies of Kruidhof and accordingly, it is believed that the claims now clearly and patentably define over the prior art.

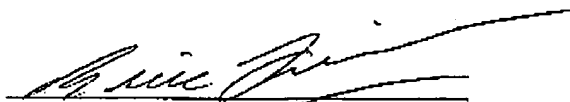
Respectfully,



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Eric Fincham, Reg. 28,201

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Date